

## St. Marys Lodge 581 pitches in for Wedding Event

by MARCIA BLEGGI  
Lodge 581 President

**ST. MARYS, Pa.** — Lodge 581 held its fourth quarter meeting on Dec. 10, 2020, at St. Callistus Catholic Church in Kane, Pa. The primary purpose of the meeting was to elect officers and discuss plans for 2021. Members also held a remembrance for Lodge Secretary/Treasurer Bro. Jerry Troha who passed away on Dec. 2.

The weekend of Sept. 26-27, Lodge 581 partnered with the Historical Society of St. Marys and Benzinger Township for the Wedding Event, which included a tour of more than 70 wedding gowns, a sale of memorabilia,

SEE **LODGE 581 WEDDING EVENT**  
ON PAGE 5



SNPJ Lodge 581 members **JOHN MOORE** [left] and the late **JERRY TROHA** entertained at the Wedding Event hosted by the Historical Society of St. Marys and Benzinger Township.

## Fontana Lodge 723 meetings going high-tech starting in Jan.

by JULIANNE WOOD  
Lodge 723

**FONTANA, Calif.** — Sunkist Lodge 723 in Fontana will begin holding their 2021 Lodge meetings virtually using Google Meets based on current COVID-19 guidelines and recommendations.

Members will be able to join the Lodge meeting virtually via computer, cell phone or landline. Computers and cell phones with audio and video capabilities can access video feed options, while landline users will experience a voice-only meeting.

All members who are interested in attending the Lodge 723 meetings must e-mail [SNPJLodge723@gmail.com](mailto:SNPJLodge723@gmail.com) to receive the

meeting invitation and access code required for Google Meets.

To better serve our members, Julianne Wood is offering a tutorial on how to use Google Meets, set up an e-mail, and prepare for the online meetings. Please call Julianne at (951) 300-3592 or send an e-mail to [Wood.Julianne22@gmail.com](mailto:Wood.Julianne22@gmail.com).

Lodge 723 meetings will be held beginning at 6:30 p.m. PST on the following dates in 2021: Jan. 21, April 15, Aug. 19, Oct. 21 and Nov. 18, which is the date of the annual meeting. All meeting dates and times are subject to change and cancellation. Members who express an interest in the altered meeting format will be notified.



Photo submitted by Bro. Bill Krzysnik (518)

### Touching Hands with Alzheimer's Patients

Led by Lodge President **IRENE KOVAC** and assisted by Recording Secretary **MARY BETH KRZISNIK** (pictured), Melvindale, Mich., Lodge 518 made twiddle muffs for Alzheimer's patients. These muffs help patients reduce anxiety and restore calm. The twiddle muffs will be donated to a local southeast Michigan Alzheimer's memory care facility. In addition, Lodge 518 donated \$200 to the Michigan Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

## Despite the cancellation for 2020, Pretty In Pink continues to raise funds

by LOIS DENNING (41)  
Westmoreland Federation Treasurer

**GREENSBURG, Pa.** — The ninth annual Pretty In Pink fundraiser, hosted by the Westmoreland County Federation of SNPJ Lodges, was canceled. No dance, no Chinese auction, no 50/50 drawings, no food.

However, we were blessed to receive many kind words and much financial support from our polka family. Your generosity allowed us to provide needed services for local cancer patients. Together, we were able to supply food and gas for those individuals undergoing treatment.

We want to share a patient's story with you: The family of a patient who lives in Westmoreland County, Pa. (although when paying a visit, you might think that you were in the mountains of Appalachia), had no water supply to their kitchen, nor a working toilet; they had to carry in water for both. The floor of the home might as well have been a dirt floor. A portion of your donations were used to pay for a plumber to repair the waterlines, and install a new toilet and a new washing machine.

Making a donation is one way to reach out a helping hand. Through your donation, you were a part of an effort to provide assistance and help families rebuild their lives after cancer.

Thank you all for your support during this pandemic. You truly made a difference in someone's life! This was the year of giving, and now we're praying for a 10th annual Pretty In Pink fundraiser in 2021.

Donations can be made at any time to the Westmoreland County Federation of SNPJ Lodges, c/o Lois Denning, 40 Peters Rd., Greensburg, PA 15601.

Hvala!



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## briefly

### SNPJ staff mourns loss of Bro. Kevin Richards

**IMPERIAL, Pa.** — With heavy hearts, the SNPJ Executive Committee and the staff at the SNPJ Recreation Center and Home Office announce the Dec. 9, 2020, passing of Bro. Kevin Richards, SNPJ Recreation Center Director-in-transition, former SNPJ Fraternal Director, and our very good friend of many years.

On behalf of the Society, the entire staff extends their sympathies to Bro. Richards' family and many friends on their loss. A complete obituary, which was unavailable at deadline, will run in a future issue.

### Home Office closed as we celebrate the New Year

**IMPERIAL, Pa.** — The SNPJ Home Office will be closed Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, in celebration of the New Year. Normal office hours, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., will resume Monday, Jan. 4. We wish all SNPJ members and friends the very best in the new year!

### Society sympathies for Lodge 355 secretary

**IMPERIAL, Pa.** — The SNPJ Home Office has been notified of the Nov. 13, 2020, passing of Bro. LeRoy G. Jackopin, secretary/treasurer of Lodge 355 in Fairport Harbor, Ohio.

On behalf of the entire Society, the members of the Executive Committee and Home Office staff extend their sympathies to Bro. Jackopin's family and friends on their loss. See page 4 for a complete obituary.

### Society sympathies for Lodge 581 secretary

**IMPERIAL, Pa.** — The SNPJ Home Office has been notified of the Dec. 2, 2020, passing of Bro. Jerry Troha, secretary/treasurer of Lodge 581 in St. Marys, Pa.

On behalf of the entire Society, the members of the Executive Committee and Home Office staff extend their sympathies to Bro. Troha's family and friends on their loss. A full obituary will run in a future issue.

### Have you recommended a new member lately?

**IMPERIAL, Pa.** — Take advantage of SNPJ's Recommender Program which offers members an enhanced benefit for encouraging family, children, friends and acquaintances to join SNPJ. The recommender will receive \$10 for each valid referral, and every valid referral earns the recommender one entry in the quarterly drawing for a chance to win \$100. Pay a visit to the SNPJ website, [snpj.org](http://snpj.org), to complete an online Recommender form and get a head start on your reward.

## THE DEADLINE

The next two *PROSVETA* issue dates are Feb. 1 and March 1. All material must be received by noon on Monday, Jan. 18, for the Feb. 1 issue, and by Monday, Feb. 15, for the March 1 issue. If you're concerned about making the deadline, send an e-mail to [prosveta@snpj.com](mailto:prosveta@snpj.com) or submit your material via the publications area of our website, [snpj.org](http://snpj.org).

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**Toll-Free:**  
**1-800-843-7675 (THE SNPJ)**  
**Fax: (724) 695-1555**  
**e-mail: prosveta@snpj.org**  
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**EDITOR:**  
**Jay Sedmak**

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## Have something for Up-and-Coming?

Lodge/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Event \_\_\_\_\_

Site \_\_\_\_\_

If a concert or dance, who is  
performing? \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

Who to contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and return to:  
**PROSVETA**  
247 W. Allegheny Road  
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# Spartans Lodge 576 elects 2021 officers

by TONI THOMEY  
Lodge 576 Recording Secretary

**CLEVELAND**— Happy New Year, Spartans Lodge members! I certainly hope all are well and have stayed healthy during the holidays.

2020 was certainly a year that we'd like to forget. My New Year wish is that we see some major progress in the world getting back to normal. SNPJ members are social people, and we need to get back to our festivals, our bowling tournaments, our golf outings and our weekly polka jams!

In the later part of 2020 we had the opportunity to elect the Spartans Lodge 2021 executive board. I'm pleased to announce Karen Novak as president, Patty Candela as vice president, Linda Gorjup as secretary/treasurer, and me, Toni Thomey, as recording secretary. Our auditors are Lou Novak, Sammi Likovic and Donna Gorjup.

I know we will be hard at work arranging safe activities to get Spartans members engaged in 2021. Congratulations to all!

This month we will be holding a virtual raffle to benefit new balina courts at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio. The Farm had a rough 2020, as did many other businesses, due to COVID-19.

This "New Year Raffle" will have four cash prizes: \$250, \$75, \$50 and \$25. Please reach out to Toni Thomey at [athomey28@icloud.com](mailto:athomey28@icloud.com) or (216) 744-4710 for more information and ticket purchases. I will be sending more information via e-mail and postings on Facebook. The drawings will be held Jan. 31.

I would like to send a special belated birthday greeting to our amazing friends and members June Slapnik, who turned 90 years young, and Vida Zak, who turned the bright young age of 93. The happiest of birthdays to both of you!

Please stay tuned for meeting dates and Lodge activities in future articles, on Facebook posts and through e-mails. We truly hope we will be able to see much more of all of you in 2021!



Spartans Lodge birthday girls **VIDA ZAK** [above] and **JUNE SLAPNIK** celebrated during the November Lodge meeting held at Dino's Restaurant in Willowick, Ohio.



# Strangers to Paradise

by JAY SEDMAK  
SNPJ Publications Editor/Manager

**AUTHOR'S NOTE** – *Credit where credit is due: The vast majority of the material compiled for this article was researched and written by Polonca Cesar-Nedzbala and published, in Slovenian, in Dve Domovini, Vol. 1/1990 (translation by Google Translate, which did an admirable job). Additional sources include Slovene Immigrant History, 1900-1950, Autobiographical Sketches, by Ivan Molek, translated by Mary Molek, published by M. Molek, Inc., 1979; The Slovenes of Northern California, 1860-2001, by Donald Kambic, published 2001; and columns from various newspapers, all of which have been identified throughout the text.*

“A tragic death. The sad end of a noted Slovenian priest. The drowning of Father Jeram.”

So read the headlines of a page 1 article published in an issue of the *Ukiah Republican Press* (Ukiah, Calif.) dated Friday, May 7, 1897.

The article outlines the sad and untimely death of Fr. Peter Josip Jeram; born July 28, 1857, in Smoleva pri Železniki, Gorenjsko region, Slovenia; deceased circa May 3, 1897. The setting for this tragic event was a Slovenian settlement located in northern California, an area some 115 miles north of San Francisco and 140 miles northwest of Sacramento – not in Cleveland, nor Chicago, nor Pittsburgh, nor any town in proximity to the smaller Slovenian enclaves scattered throughout Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota and West Virginia. To be more precise, this former Slovenian settlement was located in a remote section of Mendocino County, the largest city in which is Ukiah.

Some might refer to this area's remoteness as “God's country,” to use the vernacular, and they wouldn't be far off in that assessment. The exact location of this long-forgotten Slovenian settlement was Eden Valley, so named after the biblical Garden of Eden. The ancestral home of the Yuki, a people indigenous to California, the area surrounding Eden Valley is fed by the Eel River, and its fertile valleys and rugged, mountain-rimmed terrain were highly prized by livestock ranchers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The interesting tale of this former Slovenian settlement – which others, including its founder, have referred to as a “colony” – begins and ends with Fr. Peter Josip Jeram, and its very existence is said to have been a key dynamic in the establishment of the Slovene National Benefit Society in 1904.

As mentioned, Fr. Peter Jeram was born in Slovenia (the Austrian Empire, at that time), but spent the majority of his life, nearly 24 years, in America after arriving at the Slovenian settlement in Calumet, Mich., in 1873. Jeram attended the Seminary of St. Francis in Milwaukee, was ordained a priest in 1880, and through 1889 served as a missionary and priest in Minnesota.

Catholic priests, who were in short supply west of the Mississippi in the 19th century, moved throughout the American Midwest frequently; thus was the case for Fr. Jeram. From Minnesota, Jeram made his way to the Dakota Territory in 1889 and spent the next several years serving as a priest for Catholic immigrants in South Dakota, which was granted statehood in November 1889.

During his time in South Dakota, Jeram, a scholar who had mastered several languages, compiled the first Slovenian-English grammar book to

aid fellow Slovenian emigrants in their struggle to grasp the English language. Completed in 1893, his Slovenian-English grammar was made available for purchase through *Amerikanski-Slovenec*, the oldest Slovenian newspaper in America, which at that time was published in Minnesota by Kranjsko slovenska katoliška jednota (Carniolan Slovene Catholic Union, in English), more commonly known as the KSKJ (KSKJ Life, today).

Just as the American Midwest had continued to expand in the late 1800s, even further west, in San Francisco, the population of the Slovenian, Croatian, Czech and Slovak immigrant communities continued to grow throughout the late 19th century, and these new Catholic immigrants successfully petitioned the bishop to appoint a fellow immigrant as their priest. Jeram was selected for the position, and on June 1, 1894, *Amerikanski-Slovenec* published news of his move to San Francisco.

In 1895, just a year after his arrival in San Francisco, Jeram formulated his plan to establish a “Catholic colony” outside of San Francisco. By forming a colony, he hoped to help his fellow Slovenians create a more cohesive community and thus retain their native customs and language. He was also thoroughly convinced that the Slovenians should move away from the towns and cities and into the countryside “because our emigrants,” he wrote, “due to urban civilization, are failing mentally.”

## The Next Move

The establishment of a religious or utopian colony was hardly a novel idea in the 19th century. Several religious colonies had been – and were continuing to be – formed across the country, some even in California, and some more successful than others. And as with many of its kind, the colony Jeram had in mind required land, and plenty of it.

Jeram's search for a suitable site for his colony commenced in the autumn of 1895, and shortly thereafter he discovered that 10,000 acres of valley and mountainous land were available about 40 miles north of Ukiah, Calif., in the Round Valley area of Mendocino County. According to an article published in the Feb. 22, 1896, issue of the *San Francisco Call*, Jeram had selected this site “on account of its topographical character and climate, because it consists of valley and mountain and an atmosphere closely resembling [that of] the colonists' native place in Europe.”

An appropriate site having been selected, the time had come to advertise for investors. Turning to the press, Jeram formally announced his plans for the new colony in the pages of both Slovenian newspapers operating in the United States at that time, the aforementioned *Amerikanski-Slovenec*, and *Glas Naroda*, which was based in New York.

To secure the funds required to purchase a share in the colony, he suggested that several families pool their money and make a joint investment. The Slovenian immigrants in San Francisco, most of whom were aware of Jeram's plan from the very beginning, spread word of this investment opportunity to fellow Slovenians in their city, throughout California, across the United States, and even back home in their native Slovenia.

Though he had answered a calling to the priesthood, Jeram was a farmer at heart. He enjoyed the simple pleasures of farm life, and he believed that many of the newly-immigrated Slovenians would also benefit from life on a farm. Although only some 500 acres of the 10,000 total were suitable for farming grains and produce, Jeram was quick to advertise the fact that the many additional acres of hilly terrain would be ideal for raising livestock, as well as for cultivating fruit trees and grapevines.

# In the spirit of the season, Lodge 577 reaches out to vets' home

by PAULA GIORDANO  
Lodge 577

**PUEBLO, Colo.** — SNPJ Lodge 577 members met on Dec. 6, 2020. President Rosann Curran facilitated a Zoom meeting with the vice president, secretary and historian online.

The treasurer's report was presented, indicating that the Lodge awarded two scholarships this year.

Once again this year, Lodge members have reached out to the Colorado State Veteran's Home in Walsenburg. Since no in-person visits are allowed due to COVID-19 restrictions, Lodge members voted to send cards to the residents for Christmas.

The Lodge also helped sponsor a project in which the residents' photos were taken next to a holiday sign made by Lodge 577 young adult member Emilee Davis. These photo greetings were sent by the facility to the residents' families. Lodge members also sent Christmas cards to a U.S. soldier at the request of a member.

The meeting ended with well wishes to all! We're looking forward – *with hope* – to hosting a Lodge meeting in March.



**Fr. Peter  
Josip Jeram**  
(Archives of  
Archdiocese  
of St. Paul  
and Minne-  
apolis).  
*Reprinted  
from Dve  
Domovini,  
Vol. 1/1990.*

In correspondence with his fellow Slovenians, he also indicated that the land was rich with coal, copper and marble, and perhaps even mercury, oil and gold.

His marketing technique struck at the hearts of both farmers and miners: Here was an opportunity to form a true community vineyard, or at very least operate a mine that was owned by the community, not some rich and powerful corporate magnate. Jeram knew for certain that the Slovenians were tired of toiling for the benefit of others – the monarchies back home in Europe, and the large industrial concerns here in America – and he felt they would be more receptive to his idea of forming a cooperative community of like-minded, hard-working compatriots.

In his appeals for investors, it's very likely that Jeram was simply repeating what the land brokers had told him; that the true value of the property in Eden Valley was hidden and required only desire and hard-working hands to reach its full potential. What the brokers – and Jeram – hadn't disclosed was the fact that other than an old farm house and three stables, there were no other buildings, no working fields and no mine shafts on the property. Nor did the brokers indicate that the surrounding flat land was often flooded by seasonal surges along the Eel River.

Regardless, Jeram estimated the property's value at close to \$250,000. Should the bank accept an offer of \$70,000 to \$80,000, he felt he could raise enough money to also purchase 1,200 head of cattle, several hundred pigs, 50 or so horses, feed for the animals, seed and agricultural tools for spring planting, and some basic necessities (stoves, tableware, etc.) for several new homes that the settlers would construct for their families.

Since many of the new Slovenian immigrants desired property of their own, word spread quickly of the plans for a new settlement. Jeram compiled a list of Eden Valley investors (the soon-to-be colonists) that was published in *Amerikanski-Slovenec* in February 1896. Of the 99 Slovenians who had contributed to the settlement at that time, 18 were residing in California. The individual investment amounts ranged from \$700 to \$3.

Besides California, investors were listed from 14 other states: 18 from Minnesota; 12 from Illinois; nine from Ohio; seven from Pennsylvania; five from New Mexico; four each from Montana and New York; three each from Colorado and Washington; two from Iowa; and one each from Kansas, Missouri, Utah and Wyoming. Through mid-February 1896, Jeram had managed to collect \$23,911 from his investors, each of whom was provided with directions to the Eden Valley colony and informed of when they should plan to arrive at the new settlement.

*This feature will continue in the Feb. 1 issue.*



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SNPJ Sales Director

# The Weight of the World

Dealing with a global pandemic isn't something anyone prepares for, and it has developed into a communally-learned experience as the months go by. One of the issues that people are dealing with, along with the viral threat, is isolation: having the "time" to dwell on other external stresses, further compounding an already wearisome moment in our history. It is essential to look after one's mental health, just as it is important to keep washing hands and wearing masks for our physical safety. Considering this reminds me of an old story that seems applicable today.

**The Story:** Once, a psychology professor walked around his classroom full of students holding a glass of water with his arm straightened out to the side. He asked the students, "How heavy is this glass of water?"

The students started to shout out guesses, ranging anywhere from four ounces to one pound.

The professor replied, "The absolute weight of this glass isn't what matters while I'm holding it. Rather, it's the amount of time that I hold onto it that makes an impact. If I hold it for, say, two minutes, it doesn't feel like much of a burden. If I hold it for an hour, its weight may become more apparent as my muscles begin to tire. If I hold it for an entire day – or week – my muscles will cramp and I'll likely feel numb or paralyzed with pain, making me feel miserable and unable to think about anything aside from the pain that I'm in.

"In all these cases, the actual weight of the glass will remain the same, but the longer I clench onto it, the heavier it feels to me and the more burdensome it is to hold."

The class understood and shook their heads in agreement.

The professor continued, "This glass of water represents the worries and stresses that you carry around with you every day. If you think about them for a few minutes and then put them aside, it's not a heavy burden to bear. If you think about them a little longer, you will start to feel the impacts of the stress. If you carry your worries with you all day, you will become incapacitated, prohibiting you from doing anything else until you let them go.

"Put down your worries and stressors. Don't give them your entire attention while your life is passing you by."

**The Moral:** Let go of things that are out of your control. Don't carry your worries around with you everywhere you go, as they will do nothing but bring you down. Put your "glass down" each night and move on from anything that is unnecessarily stressing you out. Don't carry this extra weight into the next day.

We here at the SNPJ Home Office can be a valuable resource during these uncertain times. Call us today at 1-800-843-7675 to review your life insurance needs.



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## EU approves Slovenia's subsidies to airlines

**BRUSSELS, Belgium (STA)** — In November, the European Commission gave approval for Slovenia's subsidy program for airlines operating flights to the country. "The program is in line with the EU's state aid temporary framework, and the measure is urgent and appropriate for tackling disruptions in the Slovenian economy," European Commission representatives announced.

The aid must not exceed EUR 800,000 (approximately \$950,000) per [airline] company and will be available until June 30, 2021, according to the European Commission, which said this was "necessary, appropriate and proportionate to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy."

A public notice published in late October by the Slovenian government will attempt to help restore Slovenia's air links and co-fund the costs incurred by providing aviation services.

Slovenia would like to expand its air links with European and other countries. The government hopes to maintain current regular international flights and support new regular services by carriers that stopped flying to Slovenia due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Nine air carriers have already applied for service—Lufthansa, Air Serbia, Montenegro Airlines, Air France, Turkish Airlines, Swiss Air, Easy Jet, Wizzair and LOT. All of the carriers previously provided service to Ljubljana Airport or were still operating flights from October-December 2020, during the second wave of the pandemic, amid strict COVID-19 mitigation protocols.

## Biotechnical Center takes a 2020 EU award

**LJUBLJANA (STA)** — In mid-November, the Ljubljana Biotechnical Educational Centre (BIC) received the EU Commission award for excellence in vocational education and training (VET).

"The aim of the VET award is to recognize European providers of vocational skills education and training which have contributed to excellence in their field using innovative practices," the BIC explained in a press release.

"We're proud of our work, and we're glad that it has been recognized at the European level as well. Our main mission is to educate, and we will continue to strive to provide all of our students with excellent conditions for education," BIC director Jasna Kržin Stepišnik said.

The Biotechnical Educational Centre showcased various activities in its promotional video, including its microbrewery, which operates as part of the KULT316 center of gastronomy and tourism; and its food science and nutrition students, who developed "Newdels," a durum wheat pasta that contains barley residue, a brewing byproduct that is otherwise discarded.

2020 marked the fifth year during which the EU Commission presented awards for VET excellence.

## Shoppster e-commerce site launched in Nov.

**LJUBLJANA (STA)** — A new e-commerce platform called Shoppster launched in Slovenia in mid-November. Owned by telecommunications and media provider United Group, Shoppster includes an online marketplace, plus a dedicated 24-hour television and YouTube channel.

The platform launched in Serbia in September, and its Slovenian business is built around the recently acquired online retailer *ideo.si*.

The Shoppster website currently includes categories such as home appliances, tools, toys, gardening, sports, healthcare and automotive. The company indicated that a line of celebrity products will soon be introduced as well.

The platform will also be offered to partners as an additional sales channel. "Shoppster will be a reliable partner for domestic companies, with special attention paid to smaller businesses and producers in the coming months," according to a United Group press release.

United Group is a leading telecommunications and media company in Southeast Europe. The group owns telecommunications providers throughout the region – including Telemach in Slovenia – as well as a number of television programs, sports channels in particular.



## National Museum starts bicentennial countdown

**LJUBLJANA (STA)** — The National Museum of Slovenia has begun the countdown to its 200th anniversary, which will be celebrated on Oct. 15 next year. Until the anniversary date, the museum will be showcasing 200 of its artefacts on social media.

The museum has already posted presentations of several historical objects on its website and on Facebook. The first was a one-of-a-kind bronze clasp engraved with the image of the centaur archer. The clasp was discovered in 1894 at an early medieval burial ground near Brdo pri Bledu in northern Slovenia.

Other highlighted objects have included one of the two editions of Jurij Dalmatin's translation of the complete Bible into Slovenian, Roman jewels, 19th-century occult and witchcraft literature, a clay money box from the 14th-15th century, and a longsword stamped with the Passau wolf. Both the money box and blade were discovered in the Ljubljana River.

History buffs could also take a look at an encolpion originating from the 11th century Middle East. Encolpions are cross-shaped medallions that were once worn around the neck by Orthodox and Eastern Catholic bishops. The medallions were made in Syria and Palestine between the 11th and 13th centuries and brought to Europe by pilgrims to the Holy Land.

Going back even further in time, the museum will showcase what is considered one of the most beautiful and oldest Neanderthal relics unearthed in Slovenia: the bone flute discovered near Postojna.

The National Museum of Slovenia protects, researches and promotes the country's cultural heritage. Sigmund Zois, a nobleman, natural scientist and patron of the arts, paved the way for establishment of the museum, along with his circle of Enlightenment intellectuals.

In 1821, participants in the Ljubljana Congress explicitly urged the inception of the museum, and the decision to formally establish the museum was made by the authorities soon after.

## Food delivery services expand during pandemic

**LJUBLJANA (STA)** — The closing of restaurants as part of the October COVID-19 lockdown measures in Slovenia resulted in a steep rise in demand for food delivery services such as E-hrana and Wolt, couriers for which can be seen buzzing around on bicycles throughout Slovenia's major cities.

Slovenia's E-hrana delivery service, which was established in 2011, currently provides deliveries for more than 400 restaurants around the country, 150 of which joined during the Coronavirus pandemic. New restaurants are being added to the list on a daily basis.

"During the first lockdown, several restaurants decided to temporarily close their doors. But now the majority of restaurants have persisted and are trying to stay afloat with the home delivery system," E-hrana representatives told the press.

Since the October lockdown, the number of restaurants utilizing E-hrana couriers has increased by around 30 percent, and the service has now expanded to Celje.

The delivery service allows restaurants that have their own delivery staff to receive online orders through E-hrana, which means that E-hrana users from across the country can have restaurant take-outs delivered to their doorstep.

E-hrana processes a few thousand orders daily and has more than 240,000 registered users. "The number of daily registered users has increased four-fold during the lockdown," the company explained. The significant increase in the number of orders is also attributed to the cold and wet weather, "which is when our season peaks anyway."

Wolt, a Finnish delivery company, has also seen increased interest in its services. In October, the company added 70 new restaurants from Ljubljana and Maribor to its provider list, which compares to 60 during the spring lockdown.

Wolt has also decided to help restaurants whose business had decreased during the lockdown. "Every week, we select 10 restaurants and make deliveries

free of charge," said a Wolt spokesman. Wolt currently serves 330 restaurants in Slovenia.

Throughout the summer, Wolt sought out partners from retailers that sell food, drinks and other products, and now the service is able to deliver products such as flour, light bulbs, child care essentials, electronics and washable face masks to customer's homes.

While it currently covers only Ljubljana and Maribor, Wolt plans to expand to other cities as demand grows. It is constantly opening new jobs and increasing its courier fleet, while also employing additional staff in customer support, sales and marketing.

## Fall and winter bring vitamin D deficiencies

**LJUBLJANA (STA)** — Some 80 percent of adults in Slovenia do not get enough vitamin D in the fall and winter months, a report from Slovenia's Institute for Nutrition indicates. Vitamin D is seen as particularly important for the immune system during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Vitamin D is essential for the human body to function normally. Sufficient amounts are generated in the skin when it is exposed to sunlight. In the fall and winter months, however, when sunlight exposure is low, food becomes an important source of vitamin D," said Institute for Nutrition representative Igor Pravst, noting that fish and eggs, for example, are rich in vitamin D.

In Slovenia, a Nutrihealth survey was recently conducted to gain insight into vitamin D levels among the population, and research continues as part of an institute-led project. The results of previous surveys have shown that Slovenians receive 3 to 4 micrograms of vitamin D per day, while a healthy adult needs at least 20 micrograms.

The latest surveys indicate that in 2020, people have even lower levels of vitamin D, possibly because of lifestyle changes following the outbreak of the Coronavirus. "The people who had less exposure to sunlight during the summer because of Coronavirus measures will have even lower levels of vitamin D in the fall than last year," according to the institute.

A vitamin D deficiency makes the immune system less prepared to fight off infections targeting the respiratory system, and according to endocrinologist Marija Pfeifer, having enough vitamin D in the body during the epidemic can help fight infections in the lungs and other COVID-19 symptoms, and possibly even prevent deaths.

At the end of 2019, a task force of experts was established to prepare guidelines for vitamin D intake. The group, led by Pfeifer, advises people to take 20 to 50 micrograms of vitamin D per day and proposes double the dosage for those who are obese. In the event of a Coronavirus infection, the dosage should be increased and then kept at 50 micrograms per day, Pfeifer said.

In Slovenia, comprehensive national guidelines regarding vitamin D will be presented next year.

## Investment spurs winter tomato production

**VELIKA POLANA (STA)** — Since mid-December, Slovenian consumers have been able to purchase homegrown winter tomatoes. The Friško company, a subsidiary of the Paradaž group, invested EUR 6 million (\$7.14 million) in a greenhouse capable of producing some 700 tons of small tomato varieties annually.

Although small tomato varieties are best suited to colder climates, Friško is also determining whether it will be worthwhile to grow bigger tomato varieties throughout the winter months by adding additional lighting.

Friško director Kristjan Magdič told the press that the process of growing winter tomatoes is environmentally friendly and has a minimal impact on the environment. The company uses gas to produce the thermal energy for heating and the electricity for the lighting. One of the thermal by-products, carbon dioxide, is turned into oxygen by the tomato plants themselves through photosynthesis.

Between 20 to 25 workers were hired for the project, and the first winter tomatoes were available in Slovenian stores just before Christmas.

*The articles comprising this feature have been reprinted with permission from the Slovenian Press Agency (STA).*



SNPJ fraternal sympathies



Bro. THOMAS E. PAVLICH (153)

BRO. THOMAS E. PAVLICH  
• LODGE 153 •

**YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio** — The members of Lodge 153 sadly report the Aug. 9, 2020, passing of Bro. Thomas Edward Pavlich, 66, of Longs, S.C.

Bro. Pavlich was born Dec. 2, 1953, in Youngstown, a son of the late Steve and Sophie Pavlich. In 1971 he graduated from Cardinal Mooney High School, where he was a member of the football team. In his senior year he was named team captain during the school's first year in the Steel Valley Conference.

Tom worked at Bed Bath & Beyond as a sales executive. He was a great mentor to his co-workers and a true industry leader. He was loved by his customers due to his no-nonsense approach and honesty, which led to many long-term customer relationships. His sense of humor, work ethic and big personality will be missed by the entire Bed Bath & Beyond family.

Tom was proud of his Croatian heritage and was a lifelong member of SNPJ Lodge 153. He was a man of Catholic faith and loved to attend church services at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in North Myrtle Beach, S.C.

He was a loving, caring husband who adored his wife, Kris. Tom and Kris enjoyed traveling together and experiencing new people and places. He was a social, active man who loved spending time with his family. His infectious personality and passion for life were unmatched.

He was a loving father, whether he was playing a game of horse in the driveway, enjoying an incredibly early morning fishing trip, or going to see a ballgame. His passion for watching and talking sports was matched only by his passion for his family. Tom was a good time!

Tom looked forward to the annual family lamb roast, and really enjoyed spending

time with Eddie, his brothers and nephews the night before, prepping the lamb and testing the many potential spirits that paired well with lamb (BV always paired best).

He also enjoyed home improvement projects, gardening, fishing and spending time at the beach. One of his favorite activities was taking the grandkids on golf cart rides down by the river. He was a beloved family man and will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

Tom is survived by his wife, Kristine, also of Longs; his four children, Thomas Pavlich Jr. of Brooklyn, N.Y., Mandy (Robert) Pavlich of Canfield, Ohio, Paul Pavlich of Charleston, S.C., and Edward Pavlich of Longs; his three grandchildren, Robert Yankle, Derek Yankle and Joseph Yankle; his siblings, Dennis (Kate) Pavlich of Canfield, Richard Pavlich (Marian Kachmar) of Boardman, Ohio, Robert (Diane) Pavlich of Poland, Ohio, Joyce (Rob) Soroka of Mentor, Ohio, and Steve Pavlich of Poland; his father-in-law, Edward Rubicky of Poland; his nieces and nephews; and many family members and friends.

Due to COVID-19 precautions, no services were scheduled. However, all are welcome to celebrate Tom's life with a spirit or two.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 153 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our sympathies to Bro. Pavlich's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

SIS. MARION VOLPE  
• LODGE 564 •

**DETROIT** — The members of Lodge 564 sadly report the Oct. 15, 2020, passing of Sis. Marion (Zornik) Volpe at the age of 83, at home and surrounded by family.

Sis. Volpe was born Dec. 29, 1936, in Detroit, the daughter of the late John and Agnes Zornik. Her mother and father were both of Slovenian ancestry. Her mother was originally from Pennsylvania, and her father immigrated from Slovenia.

She was the beloved wife of Ermando for 63 years; loving mother of Gelsino John (Shelly) Volpe, Anthony (Cathy) Volpe and Lisa Volpe; proud and loving grandmother of Justin, Danny, Paul (Marija), Jacob (Britney), Anthony and Joey; great-grandmother of Zaiden and Paisley; and dear sister of Rudy (Marlene) Zornik.

Marion was a 1955 graduate



Sis. MARION VOLPE (564)

of Northeastern High School and grew up on Detroit's east side. A lifelong SNPJ member, Marion was very proud of her Slovenian heritage. She attended many events at the former Slovene National Home on John R in Detroit while growing up, and was a member of the former Slovene-speaking SNPJ Lodge 121 until later transferring to SNPJ Young Americans Lodge 564.

She served as financial secretary of SNPJ Lodge 564 and as a fraternal insurance agent for 32 years. Many of her years serving as Lodge secretary were before direct billing, so she collected all insurance payments from Lodge members while promoting and selling SNPJ life insurance policies to increase SNPJ membership. She was very active in the Society and attended many SNPJ National Conventions over the years, serving on a number of committees which helped shape the Society.

Marion was also very involved in the procurement and operation of the former SNPJ Northern Home in Warren Mich., in the late 1990s. She was the Kitchen Committee chairperson, and with her husband, Ermando, organized and cooked for the monthly dinners and fish fries during the 10 years the club was in operation. She was also in charge of cooking for the Slovenefest that was held in Sterling Heights, Mich., in the late 1990s.

Marion was involved in Slovenian cultural events sponsored by the Lodge as well. She enjoyed attending Slovenian language classes held at the club and singing in the "Slovenian Choir" during dances. She bowled in the weekly SNPJ League and attended many SNPJ national tournaments. She could be found working at any number of Lodge events throughout the year, including the annual Grape Dance, as well as the Youth Circle 29 Christmas parties and summer picnics.

Marion also enjoyed attending events at the SNPJ

Recreation Center throughout the summer. She especially enjoyed Slovenefest, National SNPJ Days, Detroit Week and the Miss SNPJ Pageant. Marion and Ermando traveled to Slovenia five times to visit relatives in Čezsoča, as well as on tours of Slovenia.

She was also an active member at St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church in Warren for 45 years.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated for Sis. Volpe at St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Warren. Entombment followed in Resurrection Cemetery, Clinton Twp., Mich. The family suggests memorial contributions to the SNPJ Scholarship Fund.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 564 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Sis. Volpe's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

BRO. LEROY G. JACKOPIN  
• LODGE 355 SECRETARY •

**FAIRPORT HARBOR, Ohio** — The Jackopin family and the members of Lodge 355 sadly report the Nov. 13, 2020, passing of Lodge 355 Secretary/Treasurer Bro. LeRoy G. "Lee" Jackopin, 89, of Wickliffe, Ohio.

Born in 1931, Bro. Jackopin grew up in Painesville, Ohio, graduating from Harvey High School. He attended Muhlenberg College and then transferred and graduated from The Ohio State University with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry, followed by earning his master's degree at the University of Kentucky.

After his Kentucky graduation, he worked as a research chemist at Shell Oil Co., Apex Electric, White Sewing Machine Co., and Lubrizol Corp., and then taught at Cleveland State University while working to complete his PhD in physical chemistry at Case Western Reserve University.

Lee married Mary Ann Doerner in 1969. They spent their first year of married life in England where Lee worked at Southampton University on a post-doctorate assignment. Returning to the United States in 1970, Lee worked with Professor Ernest Yaeger at Case Western Reserve until accepting a research position in Ann Arbor, Mich., with Kelsey-Hayes Co.

In 1973, Lee and Mary Ann moved back to Ohio, settling in Wickliffe, and Lee began research work with Tremco Co. His research career later took him to work for local Lake

County, Ohio, companies until his retirement in 1998.

An active sports player and fan, Lee played football at Harvey High School and at Muhlenberg College, and was a lifelong fan of Ohio State and Cleveland sports teams. He was a regular bowling league member for years, and both he and Mary Ann were regular golfers throughout most of their married lives, each achieving one hole-in-one.

A confirmed lover of research, Lee spent hours searching for information on many subjects, especially those related to health and wellness.

Dedicated to his Slovenian heritage, Lee was active in all things related to his ancestry. He was a member and served on the board of trustees at the Fairport American Slovenian Club, and was elected their representative Man of the Year in 2015.

Bro. Jackopin served SNPJ Lodge 355 as president from 1987-2001, as president/secretary/treasurer from 2002-2004, and as secretary/treasurer from 2005-2020. He also represented Lodge 355 as a member of the Cleveland Federation of SNPJ Lodges, the SNPJ Farm Board, and the Cleveland Athletic League.

Lee was also a member of Recher Hall in Euclid, Ohio, and other Cleveland-area Slovenian Homes, as well as AMLA Lodge 30. He worked diligently over many years arranging Lodge meetings, special events, and the Lodge 355 Sunday summer picnics held at the SNPJ Farm.

A loyal and faithful hus-



Bro. LEROY G. JACKOPIN (355)

band, Lee was also the ultimate big brother to his sisters and their families.

Cherishing his memory, Lee is survived by his wife, Mary Ann; sisters Jane (David) Sanderson of Eagan, Minn., Joan (Lee) Whitaker of Worthington, Ohio, and Marion (Jim Nields) Steffy of Chicago; as well as many loving nieces and nephews from both his and Mary Ann's families, cousins who shared many wonderful Jackopin family reunions, and longtime friends with whom he kept in touch over the years.

Lee was preceded in death by his parents, Felix and Anna (Kosaber) Jackopin, plus numerous beloved cousins and friends.


Those wishing to honor his life and memory may donate to the church, school or any special charity of their choice.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 355 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Bro. Jackopin's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF DEAR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS



**John Zornik**  
d. 1971



**Agnes Zornik**  
d. 1994

You are both forever in our hearts.

Sadly missed by son Rudy and Marlene; son-in-law Ermando Volpe; grandchildren Erik, Todd, Lisa, Tony and John; great-grandchildren Justin, Daniel, Jacob, Paul Jr., Anthony Ermando, Joseph and Aiden; and relatives in Slovenia and the United States.

DETROIT, MICH.

DEATHS REPORTED  
For the month of November 2020

LODGE	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	CITY, STATE
A01	Helen J. Werthman	02-19-2019	Monaca, Pa.
A01	Joyce J. Yurvati	04-06-2020	Bath, Pa.
A01	Dominic G. Anthony	09-10-2020	Northampton, Pa.
A02	Regina S. Yetter	10-18-2020	Gibsonia, Pa.
2	Rose Miracle	10-30-2020	East Peoria, Ill.
6	Richard D. Pilcher	05-28-2020	Oakdale, Pa.
6	Freda M. Andreone	09-03-2020	Washington, Pa.
87	Amelia V. Coban	10-27-2019	Ruffsdale, Pa.
107	Kathleen O. Zvanut	09-16-2020	Ellisville, Mo.
117	Sandra E. Smith	10-14-2020	Mechanicsville, Md.
153	Thomas M. Markovich	09-29-2020	Youngstown, Ohio
158	William Tomsick	10-24-2020	Chardon, Ohio
218	Zora Marshall	10-02-2020	Lakewood, Colo.
225	Marie K. Rodich	10-10-2020	Frontenac, Kan.
459	David Kesner	04-16-2016	Garden City, Mich.
584	Michael G. Aren	08-11-2020	West Allis, Wis.
603	Evelyn J. Vrhovnik	04-04-2020	Miami Shores, Fla.
715	Verna E. Simmons	09-30-2020	Pittsburgh, Pa.
721	Lawrence B. Hudson	10-18-2020	Aliquippa, Pa.
723	Maria Bolding	09-27-2019	Laguna Beach, Calif.
723	Robert J. Subic	10-07-2020	Ogden, Utah
729	Jerrold W. Kocovar	10-25-2020	Greensburg, Pa.
729	Gloria K. Beck	08-21-2020	Greensburg, Pa.
771	Veronica R. Wright	08-10-2020	Little Falls, N.Y.
776	Lillian McWilliams	10-08-2020	Clarks Mills, Pa.

**KAREN A. PINTAR**  
National Secretary/COO



## A CENTURY in the making

Proud of your SNPJ membership? Then you owe it to yourself to delve deeper into SNPJ history through the pages of *An Inspired Journey* — *The SNPJ Story: The First One Hundred Years of the Slovene National Benefit Society*. This richly-illustrated chronicle of SNPJ history is available for purchase.

**\$15.00 each** — plus \$2.50 s/h  
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BRO. JOSEPH ANTON GRUDEN  
• DENVER LODGE 218 •

Joe was born Feb. 6, 1931, to Joseph A. and Josephine (Babić) Gruden in Leadville, Colo. Joe was raised in Leadville and started to work at the age of 12. He served his country during the Korean War with the United States Army from 1951-1953. During this time, he was chosen as soldier of the month out of 18,000 soldiers!

After returning from the service, he started to work at Climax Molybdenum Mine and retired after 32 years. After a few months, he decided to work at Copper Mountain Resort. He worked for Copper for 33 years in several positions, including postal clerk, rental and retail foreman, and locker foreman.

Joe always had such pride in working and always wanted to do his best in anything he did. He enjoyed talking with guests, always seemed to start a conversation with strangers, and in the end, they became close friends. Many people would say that Joe always had a joke to tell, and his favorite saying was "No kidding!" He also enjoyed telling stories and talked about the history of Leadville, Climax Mine, and how he poured 800 bags of concrete at their house.

Some of his interests and passions included woodworking, motorcycles, skiing,

4-wheeling, old cars, attending polka festivals and dances, 4th of July picnics, and his love for Slovenian-style polka music. He also played the accordion at a younger age, and even played at his wedding. Living at an altitude of 10,152 ft. was an accomplishment that he was proud of, and he enjoyed the fact that he could still plow snow at his age!

SIS. JANICE MARIE GRUDEN  
• DENVER LODGE 218 •

Janice was born Sept. 26, 1939, to William and Mary (Bost) Krizman in Grand Junction, Colo. She was raised in Grand Junction and moved to Leadville when she married Joe.

Janice was a devoted wife, mother and homemaker. She decided to work after their daughters graduated, and started to work for Breckenridge, Vail, and lastly at Copper Mountain Resort. She had just completed 38 years at Copper Mountain, holding several different positions which included housekeeping admin, group sales admin, retail sales clerk, and lost and found attendant. Janice truly loved working, always made guests feel welcome, and made sure everyone was taken care of. She especially enjoyed the dogs that would come and visit her, and she always had treats for them at her workstation.

Janice is best known for her perfection in making potica and other Slovenian heritage dishes that she self-taught and tested through different recipes from her mother and her aunt, Theresa Krizman. She loved to try new recipes and always prepared wonderful meals, and holiday dinners for the family were extra-special.

Her passions and other interests were cake decorating, grand-dogs, sewing, dancing, motorcycles, knitting, keeping their home and vehicles meticulously clean, and being outdoors working in her flower beds.

On Aug. 9, 1958, Joe and Janice were married in Grand Junction and moved to Leadville, where they lived for almost 62 years and raised two daughters. Together, they were very proud of their life of accomplishments, including their passion for traveling, which included all 50 states before their daughters graduated, and 48 states again by motorcycle. They also traveled internationally, and loved their home country of Slovenia and visiting their Slovenian heritage and Joe's family. They always looked forward to planning their next trip!

They enjoyed working until March 2020, when COVID-19 hit Colorado. Together, they had 71 years at Copper Mountain Resort, and we believe

Joe had the longest record for anyone to drive to work on Highway 91. They both worked part-time, and really enjoyed their jobs at the resort and meeting so many nice people. They had such a passion that they often said they would do the best job, even if they didn't get paid! They both had a heart of gold, and were very generous and sincere.

Joe and Janice were SNPJ Lodge 218 members and were associated with the Gold Wing Touring Association, the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame, American Slovenian Catholic Union, International Dance Club, Southern Colorado Family Polka Club, Polka Lovers Club, VFW and the Western Slavonic Association.

They both leave behind so many wonderful and happy memories, and we will miss them so much as we begin to adjust our lives without them. As we start our new journey, we will always feel the pain of their loss. Their legacy will never be forgotten!

They are survived by their daughters, Karen (Kim) Ruzicka of Grand Junction and Judy (Glen) Arneson of Leadville; and their devoted dog, Abbey, of nine years.

In honor of their wish, no memorial services will be held.

Submitted by Judy Arneson, Joe and Janice's daughter



# SNPJ FRATERNAL HONOREES

Members celebrating 50, 60, 70 and 80 years with the Slovene National Benefit Society

by JOSEPH C. EVANISH  
SNPJ National President/CEO

Of the 2,000 life insurance companies and fraternal benefit societies operating in the United States, fewer than 100 have been in existence as long as the SNPJ. As a not-for-profit fraternal benefit society, we have successfully provided life insurance to our members since 1904, along with a full package of social, athletic and cultural programs, scholarships, community service projects, and much more. SNPJ also offers annuities that can be used for IRAs and Roth IRAs.

Our more than 115 years of longevity and success have been made possible by the loyalty and dedication of our members. The SNPJ's engine may have been built and its direction set by its founders and subsequent leaders, but its path has been traveled, cleared and paved by our dedicated members.

As a way to show respect and appreciation to our longtime and loyal members, we recognize

membership milestones with a custom gift. The years of membership are counted in terms of adult membership years, not including youth enrollment years. These milestones of recognition include 50, 60, 70 and 80 years of adult membership.

We ask our Fraternal Honorees, once they have received their awards from the Society, to submit a short report on their past and present lifestyle, including their Lodge affiliation, hobbies and any other information that might be of interest to our readers.

In acknowledging these dedicated members, it is our privilege to show respect for these honorees by offering our thanks and appreciation for the loyalty they have shown the SNPJ for so many years. In this small way, through our official SNPJ publication, we can etch their names even deeper into the archives of the Slovene National Benefit Society.

On behalf of the entire membership, we extend our congratulations to those members reaching these anniversary milestones.

• **Sis. DOROTHY KURRENT** celebrated her 80-year membership anniversary with SNPJ Lodge 614 in November 2020. Her sons, James, David and Stephen Kurrent, submitted the following:

"Our mother, Dorothy Kurrent, celebrated her 98th birthday in November 2020. She presently resides at the Slovene Home for the Aged in Cleveland.

"Dorothy's parents were Ludwig and Mary Ogrinc (nee Cesnik). Ludwig had a butcher shop near 156th St. and Waterloo in Cleveland prior to WWII.

"Dorothy's memories of the SNPJ and the Slovene Hall in the Collinwood area of Cleveland include going on hikes and participating in social activities at the hall as a teenager. It was at one of these activities that Dorothy met her husband, Joseph Kurrent. They were married in 1943 while Joseph was on leave prior to serving in Europe during the war.

**Sis. DOROTHY KURRENT**  
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

"Joe and Dorothy were married for 72 years before Joseph's passing in 2016. Joe and Dorothy have three sons, James, David and Stephen, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

"Before the COVID lockdown, Dorothy enjoyed playing Pinochle with her friends at the Home, as well as taking art classes and other activities. Now her activities consist of reading and doing crossword puzzles. She is doing quite well under the circumstances."

**Sis. DOROTHY KURRENT**  
Cleveland Lodge 614  
Cleveland, OH

• Borough of SNPJ, Pa., Lodge 776 member **Sis. KATHY M. DONOFRIO** celebrated her

**Sis. KATHY DONOFRIO**  
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

50-year SNPJ membership anniversary in November 2020. She writes:

"I am retired from Wells Fargo Insurance Services, where I was an account manager. Previously I worked at the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and at Liberty Mutual.

"I live in Bessemer, Pa., with my husband Archie, my mother-in-law Vilma, and granddaughter Chelsea. We have three more granddaughters, Analise, Abby and Sophia; and three children, TJ and wife Jan who live in Bessemer, Andy who lives in Georgia, and Shannon who lives in New Castle, Pa.

"I have enjoyed attending picnics and swimming at the SNPJ Recreation Center throughout my life, and also going to Slovenefest every year. In my spare time I

**Sis. KATHY DONOFRIO**  
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN



Sis. DOROTHY KURRENT (614)



Sis. KATHY M. DONOFRIO (776)



Bro. JOHN R. SLATNER (2)

**Sis. KATHY DONOFRIO**  
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

like to read, work in the yard and most of all, travel. My husband and I enjoy sports, and are huge Pittsburgh Steelers and Penguins fans."

**Sis. KATHY M. DONOFRIO**  
Boro of SNPJ, Pa., Lodge 776  
Bessemer, PA

• **Bro. JOHN R. SLATNER**, a member of Lodge 2 in La Salle, Ill., was honored for his 60 years of SNPJ membership in November 2020.

John Rudolph Slatner was born Nov. 7, 1942, to John J. and Mary H. (Kovacevic) Slatner of DePue, Ill., and was raised in DePue. He has fond memories of

**Bro. JOHN SLATNER**  
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN

**Bro. JOHN SLATNER**  
FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

his grandparents and parents attending "doings" at the Slovenian Dom there.

John is a retired pharmacist. He and his wife Joyce reside in the Village of Paddock Lake, Wis. They celebrated 54 years of marriage in July 2020. John and Joyce have four children, Mary (Scott) Halbleib, Angela (Adrian) Bump, and John and Rudy Slatner. They also have seven grandchildren.

John writes that his hobbies include his grandchildren, reading, and travel.

**Bro. JOHN R. SLATNER**  
La Salle, Ill., Lodge 2  
Village of Paddock Lake, WI



celebrating  
your SNPJ  
anniversary?

If you would like to share your 50-, 60-, 70-, or 80-year biography with PROSVETA, be sure to address your material to National President Joseph C. Evanish at 247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126

## With assistance from St. Marys Lodge 581, local Wedding Event goes off without a hitch

**LODGE 581 WEDDING EVENT**  
FROM PAGE 1

and polka music performed by John Moore and the late Jerry Troha.

John and Jerry played for four hours on both days, drawing people in who wondered what party was going on. Residents of a nearby senior home sat outside and listened, while others danced in the parking lot. What's a wedding without music?

John and Jerry regularly played at nursing homes, but were not per-

mitted to visit the homes for several months because of the COVID-19 virus. However, John has played accordion for several funerals, and John Odonish played for Jerry Troha's funeral.

Lodge 581 continues to support the North Central Pennsylvania Polka Boosters. Even though all dances were canceled in December, they are scheduled for January on the following dates: Jan. 3, Rex Tenari; Jan. 17, Larry Lewicki; and Jan. 31, Polka

Classics. Call Pat and John Moore at (814) 837-9218 for more information.

Lodge 581 potica baking continued through December. We delivered poticas to residents in nursing homes and other shut-ins throughout the area.

For additional information about SNPJ Lodge 581, contact Marcia Klancer Bleggi at (814) 335-4983 or e-mail [marcia.and.don@gmail.com](mailto:marcia.and.don@gmail.com), or check on Facebook at St. Marys SNPJ Lodge 581.



SNPJ Lodge 581 partnered with the Historical Society of St. Marys, Pa., and Benzinger Township for the Wedding Event held Sept. 26-27, 2020.

## PROSVETA Crossword Civics 101 (#0121) by StatePoint Media

### ACROSS

- Beginning of flu, e.g.
- Espionage agent
- \*Warsaw Pact opponent
- Ringworm
- Romanian monetary unit
- Well-known
- Contain the ashes
- Paris' \_\_\_\_ De Triomphe
- Wear away
- \*Group of President's advisors
- \*Balance partner, pl.
- Ever, to a poet
- Joker, e.g.
- Type of coniferous
- Man Ray's genre
- Switches topics
- "Beware the \_\_\_\_ of March"
- Large casks
- Beyond suburban
- Fatalist's future
- Weasel's aquatic cousin
- City of Taj Mahal
- Tossed or passed
- Ready and eager
- "I \_\_\_\_ With You" by Modern English
- Water pipe
- Diplomat's forte
- Grain in J.D. Salinger's novel
- Miso bean

55. One of Indiana Jones' quests

- \*Part of Congress
- \*One who introduces a bill
- Recurring pain
- Consumed
- Baby grand, e.g.
- Relating to Hinduism
- Siren's domain
- Tiny island
- Fencing weapon
- Trinitrotoluene, for short
- Two-player strategy board game

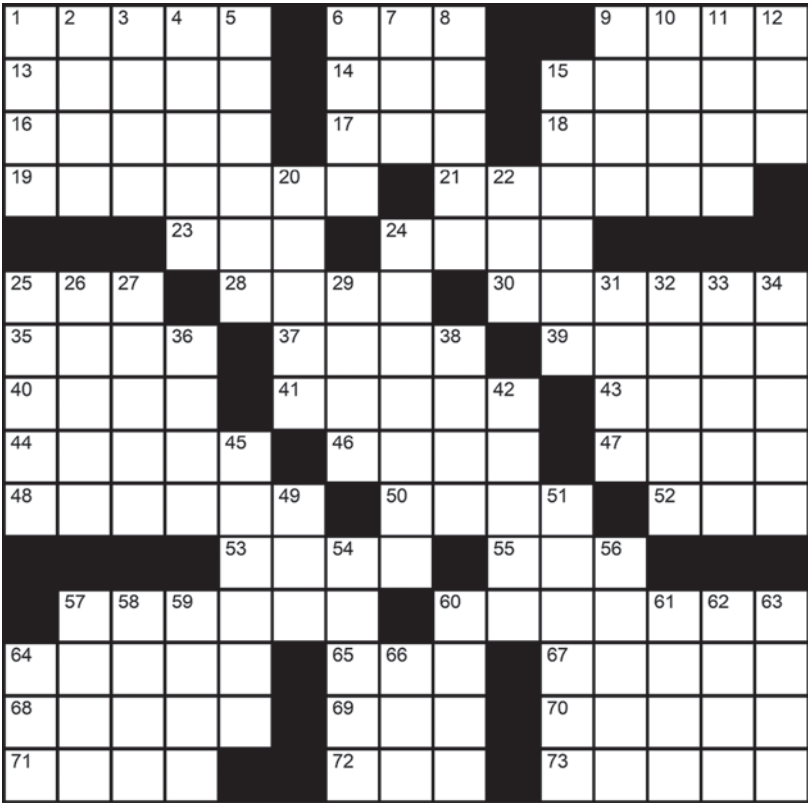
### DOWN

- Ear-related
- Santa Maria's companion
- Give the cold shoulder
- Like Halloween night
- Turned skin into leather
- Blind segment
- \_\_\_\_ capita
- New Mexico's state flower
- Narcotics agent, for short
- Every which way
- Koppel and Kennedy
- Percy Bysshe Shelley's poem, e.g.
- Avian rest stop
- Muse of love poetry

22. Store posting, abbr.

- Choral composition
- \*"Miranda Rights" amendment
- Leading potato-producing state
- Yesteryear style
- \*Serving on a jury
- \*One of five U.S. territories
- One that insists
- Ahead of time
- \*List of candidates
- Radio button
- Red Cross supplies
- Summary
- Sushi restaurant burner
- "Too \_\_\_\_ to handle"
- \_\_\_\_ of Cancer
- Brewer's staple
- Snack of Jewish origin
- Edmund Fitzgerald, e.g.
- Marine eagle
- Lymphatic swelling
- \*John Roberts' spot, e.g.
- Black Friday lure
- Half of binary code, pl.
- Decomposes
- Definite article
- \*Number of amendments in the Bill of Rights

The solution to puzzle #0121 will run in the Feb. 1 issue.



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# Support the Rec Center Cabin Renovation Project



by JOSEPH C. EVANISH  
SNPJ National President/CEO

**IMPERIAL, Pa.** — For many years, SNPJ members have enjoyed the unique and truly remarkable facility that is the SNPJ Recreation Center. The experiences and countless memories that have been made there are treasured by thousands. The Recreation Center is now more than 50 years old and, as with so many things, time, along with wear and tear, have taken their toll.

The large upper cabins, situated opposite the lake along Martin Road, are some of the first structures that were built on the property. Cabins #1 and #2 have already been completed. The budgeted cost to complete one cabin was \$28,000. There are a total of 24 large cabins and 12 motel units as part of this project. It will take a significant amount of capital to finish this project, and will likely take years to complete. The more donations we receive, the quicker we can complete the project. Since this is not a cultural or educational (scholarship) cause, but

rather, recreational in nature, contributions are not considered tax deductible.

We encourage Lodges, Federations, members, friends and other organizations to contribute. Several have already contributed. While we do offer “Club Level” recognition, all donations will be listed in *PROSVETA*.

Donors at the following Club Levels will receive their name on a plaque inside the corresponding cabin: Bronze Level, \$1,000; Silver Level, \$5,000; Gold Level, \$10,000; and Platinum Level, \$25,000.

Donation checks can be made payable to “SNPJ.” Please indicate “Cabin Renovation” in the memo area. Provide your name and address, and the acknowledgment name and address if the donation is made in memory of someone.

Send your donation to Slovene National Benefit Society, 247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126. All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support!



Even though Slavija Lodge 1 members held their 2020 annual meeting remotely, they were able to share their holiday cheer by singing some Christmas carols.

## Slavija Lodge 1 shares a socially-distant holiday

by MICHELLE HRIBAR-HERNANDEZ  
Lodge 1 President

**CHICAGO** — Slavija Lodge 1 members held their annual meeting and holiday celebration on Dec. 6, 2020, via Zoom.

The following officers and auditors were elected for 2021: President Michelle Hribar-Hernandez, Secretary/Treasurer Janina Hribar, Recording Secretary Marianne Murray, Sergeant-at-Arms Marianne Murray, Chairman of Auditors Charles O’Connell, and auditors Edward Hribar Jr. and David Hernandez.

Members decided to hold 2021 Lodge meetings via Zoom starting at noon Central time on the following dates: March 7, June 6, Sept. 12 and Dec. 5.

The link for the March

meeting is: <https://zoom.us/j/98862799376>. The Meeting ID is 988 6279 9376. Or if you prefer, join by mobile phone at +13126266799, 98862799376#.

Although the pandemic has forced us to socially distance, we were able to sing some Christmas songs after our meeting and share in some holiday cheer.

Other activities Lodge members enjoyed this year included the St. Mary’s Christmas Festival of Lights on Dec. 12 and 19 at the Slovenian Cultural Center in Lemont, Ill.

We also hosted a toy drive for Toys for Tots in an effort to share some Christmas joy with needy children this year.

We wish you a happy and healthy 2021!

## Rec Center Cabin Renovation Donations for the month of November 2020

William T. (782) & Carol A. Puz,  
St. Petersburg, Fla. .... \$25

David & Peggy Cushman (138), Houston, Pa. . \$25  
*In memory of Marion Volpe*

David & Peggy Cushman (138), Houston, Pa. . \$25  
*In memory of Dolly Davis*

David & Peggy Cushman (138), Houston, Pa. . \$25  
*In memory of David “Sonny” Jurkowski*

Amy Mavrich (138), Canonsburg, Pa. .... \$20  
*In memory of Dolly (Delores) Davis*

Amy Mavrich (138), Canonsburg, Pa. .... \$20  
*In memory of David “Sonny” Jurkowski*

## SNPJ Scholarship Fund Donations for the month of November 2020

Rudolph & Marlene Zornik (564),  
Clinton Township, Mich. .... \$100  
*In memory of Marion Volpe*

Edward A. Adamic (564),  
Sterling Heights, Mich. .... \$50  
*In memory of Marion Volpe*

Suzanne Hellner (564),  
Clinton Township, Mich. .... \$50  
*In memory of Marion Volpe*

Eugene & Leah Palmer (87), Clairton, Pa. .... \$50  
*In memory of Marion Volpe*



## SNPJ Crossword HAPPY HOLIDAYS (#1220) solution



## PROSVETA 2021 Publication Dates

### JANUARY 2021

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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### MARCH 2021

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### APRIL 2021

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### MAY 2021

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### JULY 2021

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### AUGUST 2021

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### SEPTEMBER 2021

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### OCTOBER 2021

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### NOVEMBER 2021

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### DECEMBER 2021

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Publication dates are highlighted in black boxes; deadline dates are circled. The deadline for submissions is noon on the dates circled above. Submissions may be mailed to PROSVETA, 247 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126; faxed to (724) 695-1555; e-mailed to [prosveta@snpj.com](mailto:prosveta@snpj.com); or submitted via the Publications section of the SNPJ website, [snpj.org](http://snpj.org).

## SNPJ Membership Anniversaries January 2021

### 80-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
2	Adele K. Donchenko	581	Agnes S. Maver
564	Catherine Boggess	584	Helen D. Nordby

### 70-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
584	John R. Fritzel	749	Faye Lear
643	John Gantar		

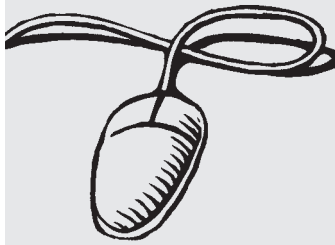
### 60-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
2	Steven J. Heinzl	174	Gary L. Mekic
2	Norman E. Videgar	207	Joan M. Jones
6	Alfred K. Okorn	584	Geraldine M. Wagner
31	Nancy A. Chomos	584	Rose P. Lajeunesse
41	John W. Kohosek	677	Dorothy J. Anderson
106	Judith F. Derosky	677	Cheryl A. Holmberg
126	Jerry A. Lukanc	689	Jona M. Gonzales

### 50-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
5	James S. Koren	207	Danette M. Warren
5	Patricia A. Unick	223	Joann M. Sharek
6	Sandra A. Bodnar	254	Paula R. Lampel
6	Barbara R. Radaker	254	Jo Ann R. Phillips
33	Raymond G. Spec	274	Frank S. Magagnotti
34	Edward Klemen	476	Frank S. Sepich
87	Arliss W. Sturges	559	Joann F. Petty
89	David A. Kendzerski	562	James L. Gertscher
106	Arlene M. Pangarsis	584	Thomas F. Techar
106	James Roscart	584	Sandra J. Grzeskowiak
138	Andrea Y. Trubia	584	Diane B. DeFeyter
138	Susan O. McDaniel	677	Lynette T. Cerne
158	Dale M. Ragazinskas	715	Fred H. Previc
158	Dennis W. Krizay	723	Edward D. Tomazin
158	Robert Evatz	771	Terri L. Pepe
207	David M. Jany		

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